Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A method of producing a target protein, which method comprises expressing said protein in a mammalian host cell which contains a nucleic acid molecule which encodes a chimeric protein, said chimeric protein comprising

(i) a signal peptide from a non-mammalian bulk-secreted protein or a derivative thereof having at least 40% sequence homology and wherein said derivative retains the ability of said signal peptide to enhance or induce secretion of said target protein; and

(ii) said target protein

and wherein the chimeric protein does not incorporate the majority of the native protein of the signal peptide.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said host cell is a eukaryotic cell.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein the host cell is a mammalian cell.

4. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said signal peptide has at least 8 amino acids.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein said signal peptide has at least 10 amino acids.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein said signal peptide has at least 12 amino acids.

7. (Cancelled).

8. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein the chimeric protein incorporates less than 15 amino acid residues of the native protein of the signal peptide.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein said chimeric protein does not incorporate the native protein of the signal peptide.

10. (Previously Presented The method of claim 1, wherein the signal peptide is from a copepod or ostracod

bulk-secreted protein.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10 wherein the signal peptide is from a ~~*Guassia*~~*Gaussia princeps* or a *Vargula hilgendorfii* bulk-secreted protein.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11 the signal peptide is from ~~*Guassia*~~*Gaussia princeps* or *Vargula hilgendorfii* luciferase.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein the signal peptide has a sequence selected from SEQ ID No. 1 or SEQ ID No. 2 or ~~fragments or derivatives thereof~~ a derivative thereof having at least 40% sequence homology, and wherein said derivative retains the ability of said signal peptide to enhance or induce secretion of said target protein.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the signal peptide comprises the amino acid sequence ALICIA ~~(SEQ ID NO:9) or a variant or fragment thereof~~ or a fragment of 4 or 5 residues thereof or a variant thereof having at least 40% sequence homology, and wherein said signal peptide has the ability to enhance or induce secretion of said target protein.

15. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the target protein is not naturally secreted.

16. (Withdrawn) A nucleic acid molecule as defined in claim 1.

17. (Withdrawn) The nucleic acid of claim 16 which comprises a nucleotide sequence selected from nucleotide sequences encoding SEQID No. 1 or SEQID No. 2 or variants or fragments thereof or sequences complementary and/or capable of hybridising thereto under conditions of high stringency.

18. (Withdrawn) The nucleic acid of claim 17 which comprises a nucleotide sequence selected from SEQ ID No. 3 or SEQ ID No. 4 or variants or fragments thereof or sequences complementary and/or capable of hybridising thereto under conditions of high stringency.

19. (Withdrawn) A chimeric protein molecule encoded by the nucleic acid molecule of claim 16.

20. (Withdrawn) A vector comprising the nucleotide sequence of a signal peptide from a non-mammalian

bulk-secreted protein upstream from a cloning site in which the coding sequence of a target protein can be inserted resulting in an expression product of said vector which is a chimeric protein, said chimeric protein comprising a signal peptide from a non-mammalian bulk-secreted protein and said target protein.

21. (Withdrawn) The vector of claim 20 wherein the cloning site is suitable for seamless cloning.

22. (Withdrawn) A host cell containing the nucleic acid or vector of claim 16.

23. (Withdrawn) The host cell of claim 22 wherein the host cell is mammalian.

24. (Withdrawn) The host cell of claim 22, wherein the host cell is part of a stable cell culture.

25. (Currently Amended) A method for obtaining a target protein from the media of a host cell culture comprising ~~the~~ a mammalian host cell ~~of claim 22,~~ as recited in claim 1, which method comprises expressing protein from said host cells, harvesting the culture media of said cells and extracting and purifying said target protein therefrom.

26. (Withdrawn) A kit comprising the vector of claim 20 and a host cell.

27. (Currently Amended) A method of producing a target protein, which method comprises expressing said protein in a host cell which contains a nucleic acid molecule which encodes a chimeric protein, said chimeric protein comprising

(i) a signal peptide from a bulk-secreted protein or a derivative thereof having at least 40% sequence homology and wherein said derivative retains the ability of said signal peptide to enhance or induce secretion of said target protein; and

(ii) said target protein

wherein said signal peptide is from a biological source taxonomically distinct from the host cell and wherein the chimeric protein does not include more than 15 residues of the signal peptide's native protein.

28. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 27 wherein the signal peptide is selected from

~~*Guassia*~~*Gaussia princeps* or ***Vargula hilgendorfii*** luciferase.

29. (Previously presented) The method of claim 27 wherein the host cell is a mammalian cell.